

Message Text

SECRET

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E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJECT: ISRAELI COLUMNIST ON US INTENTIONS IN PERSIAN GULF

1 REF STATE 257818

1. IN VIEW IMMINENT VISIT TO PERSIAN GULF BY USS
CONSTELLATION TASK FORCES, DEPT MIGHT WISH TO BE AWARE
THAT PASSAGE QUOTED APPEARED IN NOV 21 ARTICLE BY MARGALIT,
WASHINGTON-BASED CORRESPONDENT FOR WIDELY-READ ISRAELI DAILY
HAARETZ. ARTICLE CARRIES TITLE " THE THREAT OF OIL INVASION"
AND DISCUSSES INTERALIA RECENT SERIES BY JACK ANDERSON.
MAKING POINT THAT HIS CLAIMS WERE NOT RPT NOT DENIED BY USG.

2. BEGIN QUOTE. ACCORDING TO THE STRATEGIST EDWARD LUTTWAK
"MORE AND MORE PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON NOW UNDERSTAND THAT
MILITARY ACTION IS THE ONLY LOGICAL SOLUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL
CRISIS."...THE SERIOUS SUSPICION TOWARDS THE ARABS IS THE
REASON WHY THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC OUTCRY IN THE US AGAINST
AN EMERGENCY PLAN OF MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE OIL COUNTRIES,
ALTHOUGH THIS IS NO INDICATION THAT THE IDEA IS ALREADY REIPE
FOR EXECUTION, THE PROBLEM WILL ARISE ACUTELY WHEN A NEW OIL
EMBARGO IS DECLARED OR A CONSIDERABLE CUT MADE IN OIL PRODUCTION.
HOWEVER, ONE HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT THE US COMMAND WOULD
PREFER, IN THAT EVENT, THE PLAN THAT IS BEING WORKED OUT, ACCORDING

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TO VARIOUS SOURCES, IN THE SEVENTH FLEET, AND NOT THE ONE PUBLISHED

BY ANDERSON. AS FAR AS IS KNOWN, THE SEVENTH FLEET WAS ENGAGED WITH A PLAN OF LANDING IN THE PERSIAN GULF. THE IDEA IS THAT TWO DIVISIONS OF THE FLEET WILL MOVE, ONE AFTER THE OTHER, TOWARDS THE PERSIAN GULF, FOLLOWING A PIONEER TASK FORCE THAT WILL BE BUSY REMOVING MINES--AN OPERATION WHICH REQUIRED ABOUT 24 HOURS.

3. THE TWO DIVISIONS INCLUDE 19,000 TROOPS EACH. THEY HAVE 250 AIRCRAFT, OF WHICH 120 ARE PHANTOMS. THEY WILL LAND SOMEWHERE IN THE PERSIAN GULF IN TWO DIRECTIONS, TOWARDS PART OF THE SAUDI ARABIAN AND PERHAPS THE ABU DHABI OIL FIELDS. BEFORE THIS, A PARATROOP FORCE (US) WILL CAPTURE KUWAIT, "THAT WOULD BLOCK THE IRAQIS, WHO ARE LIABLE TO GET FROM THE RUSSIANS 2-3 LIGHT DIVISIONS," LUTTWAK CLAIMS. ACCORDING TO HIS CONCEPTION, THE TWO SUPERPOWERS HAVE NO INTENTION TO CLASH IN A CONFRONTATION, AND IF THE AMERICANS ARE IN KUWAIT FIRST, THE RUSSIANS WILL HAVE A GOOD PRETEXT (OR A SUSPICION) FOR ABSTAINING FROM ANY DIRECT INTERVENTION, WHILE MAKING THE MAXIMUM PROPAGANDA GAIN AMONG THE ARAB NATIONS. ISRAEL'S PART WOULD BE: TO GRANT LANDING RIGHTS OR TRANSIT RIGHTS TO THE GIANT US AIR TRANSPORT PLANES WHICH WILL MAINTAIN THE AIR LINK WITH KUWAIT. END QUOTE.

4. DEPT REPEAT AS DESIRED.
KEATING

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